

B. AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following between Title and Background of the Prior Art.

CONTINUING DATA

This is a Divisional of application Serial No. 10/124,996 entitled *Packaging Machine for Producing Reclosable Packages* now U.S. Patent No. 6,701,695, issued March 9, 2004.

Also, please amend paragraphs 50 and 51 as follows:

[050] Besides the gripping action, the closure also isolates the zipper blank attachment operation from the vacuum (or modified atmosphere) packaging operation by mating perimeter gaskets 44 of the seal die shell 40 with the walls 60 of the seal head shell 38 and thereby completely enclosing evacuation chambers 58. After closure and isolation, the vacuum or the modifying of the atmosphere occurs programmatically with the time therefor varying considerably based on packaging specifications. This is generally between 0.5 and 30 seconds. In this time, the 3mm impulse seal wires in the face of seal bar 54 are activated for approximately a 0.4-second interval. This provided sufficient thermal energy to tack packaging film 12 to lower glange flange of zipper blank 30, to tack together the lower flange and the upper flange of zipper blank 30, and to tack packaging film 28 to upper flange of zipper

blank 30. This tacking is performed in a manner that the resultant film portion (located furthest away from the package) becomes a tamper-indicating tear-off strip. In this embodiment, during tacking, the lower web of packaging film at the impulse sealer is lifted 5mm. above the level of the lower web of packaging film at the sealing die.

[051] The tacking operation in the channel-forming die takes place under temperature controlled conditions and the thermal energy from the impulse operation is absorbed by the thermal medium in the jacketed construct or chiller described above. Thus, given the short duration of the impulse heating and process water in the chiller at, for example, 65°F, the return to ambient temperature in the zipper pathway 50 is almost instantaneous and, in this embodiment, occurs within twenty seconds of impulse sealing. To accomplish this, the thermal medium in the chiller is maintained at $65^{\circ} + 15^{\circ}$ F. However, adjustments to the chiller can increase the cool-down time to one minute. Temperature controlling of the zipper attachment is significant because at elevated temperatures zipper blanks tend to twist and otherwise distort so that management thereof becomes problematic. After completion of the evacuation cycle, the sealing and channel-forming die opens and the vacuum packaged goods with the zipper blank attached thereto is indexed along the product path to the cutting and welding station.